

Mid-East Prophecy Update – May 1st, 2011

- Every week, we set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings to look at Bible prophecy
- The reason for this is because the Bible predicts certain events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies.

- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."

- I would like to do something a little bit different than we have in the past and address that which has dominated the news headlines as of late.
- Our studying of the news headlines and their prophetic significance is not any different however, the manner in which we do this is different.
- Instead of connecting dots of current events with the prophecies in the Bible, we'll examine specific reasons we even have these prophecies.

- In order to accomplish this, I will pose a question as it relates to, what I believe is the beginning of the fulfillment of Bible Prophecy in real time.
- In the interest of time, I'll limit it to, what I call the "Big Three," and in so doing will present a Biblical key unlocking the current event question.
- I want to encourage you to take notice of something that's woven into the fabric of all three of these, as I wish to unveil it at the conclusion.

Q: Why was well nigh, some two billion people, one third of the world's population, so enamored by William and Catherine's royal wedding?

A: God pre-wired us as a bride for that eternal royal wedding with the King of Kings which is why we're so fascinated by the fairy tale stories.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 NKJV He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Revelation 19:7-9 NIV (7) Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. (8) Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) (9) Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

Q: What in the world is happening to the world, namely, and most recently the tornadoes here in the US claiming a rising death toll of over 350?
A: What's happening both in and to the world, is that these are the signs we were given pointing us to what Jesus called; "the end of the world."

Luke 21:11 NIV There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

Q: Why are those Arabs causing so much chaos and instability in the Middle-East, raising my price for gas at the pump to now, \$5.00 a gallon?
A: It's not really so much about the price we pay for gas here in Hawaii, rather, it's really all about the price Jesus paid for us there in Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:1-3 NIV This is the word of the LORD concerning Israel. The LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the spirit of man within him, declares: (2) "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. (3) On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.

- In conclusion, did you notice a particular common thread that's sort of stitched into the seams, of what seems, to sew everything together?
- I would suggest that this common denominator, if you prefer, is that Jesus Christ, our bridegroom, is coming very soon, to rapture us His bride.
- He's speaking to us, in everything happening to us, to ready us, and steady us, so when He comes for us, it's not as a thief in the night for us.

2 Corinthians 11:2 ASV For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I espoused you to one husband, that I might present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

- In order that we might be presented to Christ as that pure virgin bride, we cannot reside with any love for this world, or anything in this world.

1 John 2:15-18 NIV Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. (17) The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. (18) Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.